

13 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

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FROM:

[REDACTED]
Acting ANIO/NP

SUBJECT: Presidential Priorities List

1. The Community's efforts now--as you pointed out in yesterday's meeting--should be directed primarily toward establishing the President as a client of our production.

2. It seems to me that the way to go about this is not to present him with a general list of priorities but to concentrate at least our initial efforts on those areas in which we already know the President has a special interest-- [REDACTED] nuclear proliferation, the whole range of arms control and disarmament subjects, for example. It strikes me that a President reportedly as intellectually curious and aware as President Carter already knows the questions he wants to focus his efforts on, at least during these opening months of his Administration. The Community's contribution to his efforts could be most valuable if it parallels his own initiatives, although this in no way implies either that we have to compromise our analytical conclusions or simply parrot the policy line. But I feel we do risk the charge of irrelevancy if we are seen as attempting to redirect the President's attention from those issues on which he is committed personally to other issues that we, but not necessarily the President, may feel are more significant. STAT

3. This is, of course, an incremental process. As we build up the President's confidence in the Intelligence Community's ability to respond to what he perceives as his needs, we can then increasingly assume the role of alerting him to what we consider important developments before he focuses on them in a policy sense. This approach implies that to a certain extent we second guess the President's interests, but this hardly seems insurmountable given both the President's own actions and statements of the past year and those of important Administration figures, Ambassador Young at the UN, for instance.

4. Finally, I do not think the way to go about building this confidence is by identifying at the outset those areas in which either the Agency or the Community have only limited contributions to make. We, of course, do not have to over-emphasize our capabilities but from a purely public relations point of view; pointing out our shortcomings seems somewhat self-defeating.



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